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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PLANS FOR VISIT TO AFRICA

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER, APPEARING MARCH 4 IN OPEN SESSION BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, QUESTIONED BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS RE ITINERARY AND TIMEFRAME FOR AFRICA TRIP. DIGGS SUGGESTED SECRETARY VISIT SOUTH AFRICA, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL OF REMAINING SOUTH AFRICAN "REMNANTS IN ANGOLA."
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2. SECRETARY SAID AFRICAN TRIP NOW BEING PLANNED "FOR SECOND HALF OF APRIL AND THAT SEEMS QUITE FIRM." SECRETARY EMPHASIZED HE HAS NOT YET FIXED ITINERARY FIRMLY "BUT IT MOST CERTAINLY WILL INCLUDE NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, SEVERAL FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES AND PROBABLY ONE OR TWO MORE COUNTRIES IN EAST AFRICA."

3. RE DIGGS SUGGESTION, SECRETARY SAID "FRANKLY, I HAD NOT INCLUDED SOUTH AFRICA ON MY TENTATIVE ITINERARY BUT GIVEN YOUR SUGGESTION, IT, I THINK, HAS MERIT -- CONSIDERABLE MERIT. I WILL NOW LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY SINCE THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE A SUBJECT THAT WILL INEVITABLY COME UP. I WILL EXPLORE IT AND PERHAPS YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AFTER MY PLANNING IS A

LITTLE FURTHER ADVANCED."

4. IF QUERIED BY OFFICIALS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS NOT MENTIONED BY SECRETARY YOU SHOULD AVOID ENCOURAGING SPECULATION THAT COUNTRY WILL BE INCLUDED ON VISIT. IF ASKED, THEY SHOULD BE TOLD THAT ITINERARY AND TIMING OF PROJECTED TRIP ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, THAT SECRETARY WILL BE SEEKING TO GET FAIRLY BALANCED PICTURE OF AFRICA AND THAT NECESSARY EXCLUSION OF SOME COUNTRIES FROM FINAL ITINERARY WILL NOT BE A REFLECTION ON VALUE ATTACHED BY USG TO BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS.
KISSINGER

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